

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1119

To require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a study of the extent of the coverage of members of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces under health benefits plans and to submit a report on the study to Congress, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 28, 2001

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. CARNAHAN, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. JOHNSON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a study of the extent of the coverage of members of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces under health benefits plans and to submit a report on the study to Congress, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) The Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve
6 of the Armed Forces is the element of the Armed
7 Forces of the United States that has the capability

1 quickly to augment the active duty forces of the
2 Armed Forces successfully in times of crisis.

3 (2) The Selected Reserve has been assigned in-
4 creasingly critical levels of responsibility for carrying
5 out the worldwide military missions of the Armed
6 Forces since the end of the Cold War.

7 (3) Members of the Selected Reserve have
8 served proudly as mobilized forces in numerous thea-
9 ters from Europe to the Pacific and South America,
10 indeed, around the world.

11 (4) The active duty forces of the Armed Forces
12 cannot successfully perform all of the national secu-
13 rity missions of the Armed Forces without aug-
14 mentation by the Selected Reserve.

15 (5) The high and increasing tempo of activity
16 of the Selected Reserve causes turbulence in the re-
17 lationships of members of the Selected Reserve with
18 their families, employers, and reserve units.

19 (6) The turbulence often results from lengthy,
20 sometimes year-long, absences of the members of the
21 Selected Reserve from their families and their civil-
22 ian jobs in the performance of military duties nec-
23 essary for the execution of essential missions.

24 (7) Family turbulence includes the difficulties
25 associated with vacillation between coverage of mem-

1 bers' families for health care under civilian health
2 benefits plans and coverage under the military
3 health benefits options.

4 (8) Up to 200,000 members of the Selected Re-
5 serve, including, in particular, self-employed mem-
6 bers, do not have adequate health benefits.

7 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that steps should be taken
9 to ensure that every member of the Selected Reserve of
10 the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces and the member's
11 family have health care benefits that are adequate—

12 (1) to ease the transition of the member from
13 civilian life to full-time military life during a mobili-
14 zation of reserve forces;

15 (2) to minimize the adverse effects of a mobili-
16 zation on the member's ability to provide for the
17 member's family to have ready access to adequate
18 health care; and

19 (3) to improve readiness and retention in the
20 Selected Reserve.

21 **SEC. 3. STUDY OF HEALTH CARE BENEFITS COVERAGE FOR**
22 **MEMBERS OF THE SELECTED RESERVE.**

23 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR STUDY.—The Secretary of
24 Defense shall enter into a contract with a federally funded
25 research and development center to carry out a study of

1 the needs of members of the Selected Reserve of the Ready
2 Reserve of the Armed Forces and their families for health
3 care benefits.

4 (b) REPORT.—(1) Not later than March 1, 2002, the
5 Secretary shall submit a report on the results of the study
6 to Congress.

7 (2) The report shall include the following matters:

8 (A) Descriptions, and an analysis, of how mem-
9 bers of the Selected Reserve and their dependents
10 currently obtain coverage for health care benefits,
11 together with statistics on enrollments in health care
12 benefits plans.

13 (B) The percentage of members of the Selected
14 Reserve, and dependents of such members, who are
15 not covered by any health insurance or other health
16 benefits plan, together with the reasons for the lack
17 of coverage.

18 (C) Descriptions of the disruptions in health
19 benefits coverage that a mobilization of members of
20 the Selected Reserve causes for the members and
21 their families.

22 (D) At least three recommended options for
23 cost-effectively preventing or reducing the disrup-
24 tions by means of extending health care benefits
25 under the Defense Health Program or the Federal

1 Employees Health Benefits program to all members
2 of the Selected Reserve and their families, together
3 with an estimate of the costs of individual coverage
4 and family coverage under each option.

5 (E) A profile of the health status of members
6 of the Selected Reserve and their dependents, to-
7 gether with a discussion of how that profile would
8 affect the cost of providing adequate health benefits
9 coverage for that population of beneficiaries.

10 (F) An analysis of the likely effects that pro-
11 viding enhanced health benefits coverage to members
12 of the Selected Reserve and their families would
13 have on recruitment and retention for, and the read-
14 iness of, the Selected Reserve.

15 (3) In formulating the options to recommend under
16 paragraph (2)(D), the Secretary shall consider an expan-
17 sion of the TRICARE program or the Federal Employees
18 Health Benefits program to cover the members of the Se-
19 lected Reserve and their families.

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